



## David B.

# My Story / My Stories

Throughout the month of November, LSU Museum of Art, in conjunction with the College of Art and Design, is presenting 20 original panels by acclaimed French graphic novelist, Pierre-François Beauchard, best known by his penname, David B.

David B. is one of the foremost stylists of the modern *bande dessinée* (literally, “designed strip”). The *B.D.*, pronounced “bay-day”, is a revered art form in France where it is officially referred to as the country’s “ninth art.” David B.’s style of autobiographical storytelling through black and white illustration revolutionized the graphic novel, making him an influential figure.

From 1996 – 2003, David B. published his award-winning, six-volume series *l’Ascension du Haut Mal*, translated into English as *Epileptic*. This remarkable work a memoir of his own childhood and youth after his older brother, Jean-Christophe, developed epilepsy, a diagnosis his parents chose to keep secret from the young boys. He recounts his family’s desperate search for an alternative cure – from macrobiotic communes to alchemists and spiritualists. He also gives visual expression to his childhood fears and fantasies concerning the seizures that gripped his brother as well as his own vivid dream life. Even as a child, David B. used drawing to make sense of the chaos around him.

The work has gained the David B. international acclaim. In 1998 American critics named him the European Cartoonist of the Year. He has also been awarded the coveted Prix de Meilleur Scénario, the Palmarès Prix Internationale de la Ville de Genève, and, in 2005, America’s Ignatz Award for Outstanding Artist.

The November exhibition, *My Story / My Stories*, will accompany David B.’s mid-November visit to LSU and includes 20 panels from his novels *The Drum Who Fell in Love*, *Futuropolis*, *The Veiled Prophet*, *Epileptic*. The author and artist will appear at the museum Thursday evening, November 13 from 6 – 8. He will discuss his work and his influences, which range from Edward Gorey to the Franco-Belgian classic comics *Tintin* and *Astérix* to paintings by George Grosz. He will also be available to sign books. Copies of *Epileptic* will be available in the museum shop for purchase.

*David B.: My Story / My Stories* was originally curated by Cynthia Rose & Kim Thompson for the Alliance Française de Seattle, Fantagraphics Books and 4Culture of King County. David B. and his exhibition have been brought to Baton Rouge through the support of the Book Office of the French Embassy and the French Consulate in New Orleans.